

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE,
HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON WEDNESDAY 30TH
NOVEMBER, 2011.**

PRESENT: P. Swanson. (Chair)

Mr R. Miller, Mrs M. Harris, Mrs S. Jarman, Mrs H. Rhydderch-Roberts, Community Councillors H. Evans and Revd A. Jevons and County Councillor K.W. Curry.

Observers: County Councillors Miss V.E. Evans and M.D. Hodges.

Officers in Attendance: C. Meredith (Strategic Director – Law and Governance), Ms S. Tamboo (Solicitor – Corporate), W. Richards (Scrutiny Services Manager).

1.	APOLOGIES	STCS21 - 2011
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No apologies for absence were received.

2.	MINUTES	STCS22 - 2011
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The Chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September, 2011 as a correct record.

3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	STCS23 - 2011
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There were no declarations of interests from Members.

4.	CORRESPONDENCE	STCS24 - 2011
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There were no items of correspondence of such urgency as to warrant consideration.

5.	REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – LAW AND GOVERNANCE	STCS26 - 2011
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The Sub-Committee received the report of the Strategic Director – Law and Governance. (Copy filed with signed minutes)

A. Referral of Councillors to the Public Services Ombudsman.

A1. Town and Community Councillor Referrals.

The Sub-Committee noted that two new complaints to the Ombudsman had been received. In both cases (4/11TCC and 5/11 TCC) and the Ombudsman had decided not to investigate.

The Sub-Committee asked whether statistics could be provided as to the numbers of referrals made to the Ombudsman and the number that were taken forward for the next meeting.

B. Dispensations.

B1. Applications – Town and Community Councillors.

No applications for dispensation were received.

C. Standards Conference.

The Sub-Committee noted that this issue was discussed at the Standards Committee.

D. Meeting Dates.

The following dates for the Sub-Committee were confirmed:

1st February, 2012
4th April, 2012
4th July, 2012
5th September, 2012
5th December, 2012

E. Appointment of Independent Member – Panel.

It was resolved that Councillor H. Evans be appointed as the representative of Town and Community Councils on the Shortlisting / Appointments Panel.

F. Renewable Energy.

The Strategic Director advised the Sub-Committee that arising from the blanket dispensation which had been granted to Town and Community Councillors in relation to renewable energy matters he had received a request for advice as to the position of Town and Community Councillors in relation to the issue of pre-determination.

The Sub-Committee was reminded that pre-determination was not a matter which arose under the Members' Code of Conduct but fell within the scope of common law. The Sub-Committee was further advised that it did not have the ability to grant any dispensations in relation to pre-determination but given its close proximity to the ethical agenda the Sub-Committee were being made aware of the issue. It was suggested that due to the complexity of the issues relating to renewable energy particularly in Montgomeryshire then guidance should be issued to Councillors to cover this matter of pre-determination and the Strategic Director undertook to prepare an advice note for consideration by the Sub-Committee at the next meeting.

P. SWANSON
Chairman.